

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

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MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION with a CONCENTRATION in EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

A total of 36 graduate semester hours is required for the degree with 15 required semester hours in public administration courses, 15 required semester hours in the concentration, and 6 semester hours of electives.

Required public administration courses:

PSC 481G	Public Administration (3)
PSC 502	Research Methods in Public Administration (3)
PSC 531	Public Personnel Administration (3)
PSC 532	Public Finance Administration (3)
and	
PSC 521	Administrative Law (3)
or	
PSC 545	Seminar in Public Administration (3)

Required emergency management courses:

EM 505	Introduction to Emergency Management (3)
EM 515	Legal Aspects of Emergency Management (3)
EM 525	Damage Assessment and Recovery (3)
EM 535	Initiatives Against Terrorism (3)
EM 550	Integrated Emergency Management (3)

The remaining six hours are electives to be determined through faculty advisement.

A description of the public administration and emergency management courses is provided at the end of this document.

The Master of Public Administration with a concentration in emergency management is for mid-career professionals who want to enter the emergency management field or for those employed in emergency management positions who need graduate work to meet their professional development. There are a number of professionals employed in both the private and public sectors who have indicated an interest in this program.

Recent events have intensified the significant student demand for this program within the JSU service area. On December 9, 1997, the establishment of the National Center for Domestic Preparedness at Fort McClellan, Alabama, was announced. Federal funding for FY 1998 is \$5,000,000 with anticipated funding of \$20,000,000 per year thereafter. This center will provide chemical, biological and nuclear counter terrorism training to the nation's first responders as well as other emergency management professionals. Jacksonville State University is located 8 miles from Fort McClellan and played a key role in the establishment of this center. Many of the

estimated 2,000 trainees per year, as well as the Center staff, will be candidates for this proposed concentration.

As this concentration is multi-disciplinary, faculty to support this program will be drawn from the existing graduate programs in business administration, criminal justice, environmental science management, political science, and psychology. The courses will be taught on the JSU campus with the utilization of the Fort McClellan facilities as laboratories. As the program develops, some of the courses may be offered through distance learning via compressed video and Internet.

Public Administration Course Descriptions (Prefix PSC)

PSC 481G. Public Administration (3). Principles of public administration with emphasis on public finance, personnel management, and administrative law.

PSC 502. Research Methods in Public Administration (3). Social research methods and their application to public administration; examination of the role of social research in the analysis, interpretation and clarification of problems in public administration.

PSC 521. Administrative Law (3). Legal principles and procedures involved in administration of government agencies.

PSC 531. Public Personnel Administration (3). Functions, procedures, and problems of personnel management at all levels of government.

PSC 532. Public Finance Administration (3). Collection, custody, and expenditure of public revenue, public borrowing and debt management, preparation and execution of the budget, and financial accountability of public spending.

PSC 545. Seminar in Public Administration (3). Theories, or models, of administrative organization and behavior and examination of relationship between public administration and political process.

Emergency Management Course Descriptions (Prefix EM) Required Courses

EM 505 Introduction to Emergency Management (3). Scope, objectives, and principles of emergency management; preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery strategies; roles of federal, state and local emergency management agencies, and private agencies.

EM 515 Legal Aspects of Emergency Management (3). Overview of the most important federal and state legislation bearing on emergency management in various types of disasters.

EM 525 Damage Assessment and Recovery (3). Examination of the methods used in disaster assessment and procedures for providing emergency supplies and services, including the establishment of surveillance systems after a disaster.

EM 535 Initiatives Against Terrorism (3). Contemporary thinking and current initiatives against domestic terrorism including nuclear, biological, chemical and other hazards.

EM 550 Integrated Emergency Management (3). Concepts, methodology, and elements for design and delivery of an integrated emergency management system within the framework of county, state, and federal systems. Prerequisites: EM 505, 515, and 525.

Elective Courses

(Elective courses are in draft form and subject to change)

EM 540 Incident Command Principles and procedures for command and control of emergency situations during natural or man made disasters including interaction of local, state and federal agencies and public and private organizations.

EM 560 Computers in Emergency Management (3). Introduction to the use of personal computers in emergency management, Analysis and application of contemporary software used in and related to emergency/contingency planning, including utilization of the Internet. Use of hazard response modeling. Special emphasis on planning, resource control, and business resumption after disasters.

EM 575 Medical Aspects of Emergency Management. An examination of emergency management and medical command systems, a look at the organization of first-level care at the disaster site, triage, management of mass casualties, disaster coroner operations, legal issues in medical disasters, provision of health services for disaster situations, disaster implications for medical facilities, the implementation of a disaster plan at a medical facility, development and updating and evaluating hospital disaster management plans.

**Tentative Subject Syllabus
For
EM 515 Legal Aspects of Emergency Management**

This course will be offered on Tuesday evenings this spring semester. The class will meet from 18.15 to 12.15 and will also be available via the internet.

There will be no book. Students will be supplied with links to sites on the Internet where they can find the required reading materials.

FEDERAL STATUTES IMPACTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

THE ROBERT T. STAFFORD DISASTER ASSISTANCE AND EMERGENCY RELIEF ACT, AS AMENDED, 42 U.S.C. 5121, et seq.

<<http://www.fema.gov/LAWS/Stafact.htm>>

This is the major piece of federal legislation dictating procedures and responsibilities for federal action in the event of a disaster.

SARA Title III, Community Right to Know Act

<<http://www.epa.gov/swercepp/rules/epcra.html>>

<<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/sara/fact.html>>

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (also known as SARA Title III or EPCRA) provisions has four major sections: emergency planning (Section 301-303), emergency release notification (Section 304), community Right-to-Know reporting requirements (Sections 311-312) and toxic chemical release inventory (Section 313). This establishes positive duties on the part of state and local officials.

29 CFR § 1910.120 and APPENDICES - HAZARDOUS WASTE OPERATIONS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

This statute covers the operations and training requirements for employees exposed to hazardous waste. The training requirements would be important in establishing a standard in the event of a suit dealing with inadequate training.

LIABILITY ISSUES IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The threat - essentially everyone can be sued for anything. Adherence to the standards in the above mentioned statutes cannot prevent a suit, but it can help build a defense.

I. Torts - what are they?

Forms of tort liability - each will be defined along with its elements:

- Strict
- Intentional
- Negligent
- Warranty
- Civil rights

- II. Elements of negligence - emphasizing examples which could happen during an emergency
- Duty - how it's established, such as by law, by ownership of property
 - Failure of duty - such as failure to warn, supervise, train, investigate complaints, respond
 - Legal cause
 - Actual loss or harm - including financial, damage to property, damage to people including psychological injuries

III. Immunity Types

- Absolute
- Discretionary
- Qualified
- Statutory

Erosion of immunity for governmental officials

Effect purchasing insurance can have on immunity

IV. Typical ways liability may be established

Inadequate planning - plans nonexistent, out of date, never practiced

Inadequate training - suits by the public; suits by employees; training not adequately evaluated for its effectiveness; injuries during training activities

Failure to identify hazards

Failure of duty to warn - warning methods and technologies change

Negligent operation - poor outdated equipment, no procedures on how to deal with broken or outdated equipment

Vicarious liability - municipal responsibility for the actions of employees acting in an emergency even if that employee wasn't meant to act in that capacity

Inverse Condemnation - such as the fish kill from the Birmingham warehouse fire

Attractive nuisance - especially regarding situations with children nearby

V. Required Standard of Care

Analysis of "reasonable care under the circumstances" and "community standards"

VI. Importance of working with Jurisdictional counsels

Risk management

I envision one evening where a hypothetical emergency situation is constructed. I plan to invite a plaintiff's lawyer, a defense lawyer, and a jurisdictional attorney to illustrate issues.

This course will be offered via the internet beginning with the spring semester.

Draft

EM 505 Introduction to Emergency Management

The class will meet Wednesday evenings from 18.15 to 12.15.

These lectures will be taped and the course will be available via distance learning utilizing these tapes beginning with the summer semesters.

A course instructor will be responsible for the administration functions and each topic will be presented by a guest lecturer who is knowledgeable on that field.

1. Jan. 13 Description of course, distribute syllabus, explain the different units and introduce the lecturers
2. Jan. 20 Definition of the field of Emergency Management
3. Jan. 27 Emergency/Disaster Preparedness and Exercises
4. Feb. 3 Response issues (Federal Response Plan)
5. Feb. 10 Terrorism
6. Feb. 17 Stafford Act FEMA's Role
7. Feb. 24 Midterm Exam
8. Mar. 3 Recovery Issues
9. Mar. 10 Mitigation Issues
10. Mar. 17 Legal Aspects
11. Mar. 24 Political Aspects
12. Apr. 7 Psychological Issues
13. Apr. 14 Business Continuity
14. Final Exam